

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL
April 13, 2007
101 Whitehurst Conference Room
MINUTES

Present: Pam Bowers, Albert Colom, Bruce Crauder, Bob Davis, Ed Miller, Mark Payton, Rita Peaster, Shiretta Ownbey, David Thompson, Jeretta Nord, Greg Wilber, and Gail Gates.

1. General Education Results from 2006 – Pam Bowers and Greg Wilber

Dr. Wilber handed out the General Education Assessment Annual Report for 2006 and the General Education Assessment Committee's recommendations for further consideration. The committee suggested some strategies to improve writing from freshman to senior years. One recommendation made by the committee was to have a better assessment of student writing abilities prior to coming to OSU by using a student's ACT for placement in writing courses. The committee also suggested increasing the writing requirement for upper division courses in the major and working with the Writing Center to provide more opportunities for assistance with development of writing skills. The committee also recommends that faculty who teach general education courses be required to agree to provide samples of student work for the assessment process. The General Education Assessment Committee is asking the Assessment Council, the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC), and Instruction Council for feedback on their current process and recommendations for the future. Greg handed out a "General Education Assessment Review of Results and Process" form for IC members to complete and return. Dr. Bowers commented that the process of collecting artifacts should be more systematic and asked colleges to identify 3 lower and 3 upper division courses to provide artifacts in Fall 2007 or Spring 2008. Pam will be sending out the rubric for critical thinking and diversity assignments to members. Members felt it was difficult to assess critical thinking in lower division courses using the current rubric and suggested possibly reworking the rubric to fit the course. Dr. Bowers asked members to encourage faculty to use teaching strategies so that critical thinking and diversity can be assessed. Members asked if assessment funds could be used to bring in some assistance and fund workshops, similar to the on-line course development initiative and Dr. Gates noted that it was a possibility. University Assessment may provide summer stipends for faculty to develop diversity or critical thinking assignments.

OSU will be participating in the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) next year.

Changes to the general education policy and procedures have been approved by GEAC; please review before the next meeting.

2. Revisions to Policies:

Priority Enrollment for Continuing Students
Instruction Council approved the revisions.

3. Degree Requests

College of Human Environmental Sciences

Program Modification: Nutritional Sciences BS (097)

Program Requirement Change: Increase in Credit Hours for the Dietetics & Exercise Option
The Nutritional Sciences Department at Oklahoma State University requests an increase in total credit hours from 121 to 151 hours to allow students to complete the course work requirements to become both a Registered Dietitian and a Certified Exercise Specialist.

The program modification was tabled pending discussions between Nutritional Sciences and Health and Human Performance faculty.

4. Other

Dr. Gates noted that the revisions to the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures were passed by Faculty Council on Tuesday and the major change included adding degree revocation in sections 1.04, 2.11 and 3.11. Faculty Council changed the wording so instructors do not have to initiate the process when a violation is discovered after graduation.

Dr. Gates noted that with the addition of the degree revocation to the AI Policy and Procedures the university must develop measures to administer the process. Dr. Emslie is interested in developing guidelines for this process and is asking the Registrar's Office to provide typical procedures for revoking a degree. What standard of practice is used by other universities for degree revocation? Dr. Gates noted that a separate document needs to be created for the guidelines for the new procedure and asked members to share the AI Policy and Procedures with graduate program administrators and provide feedback.

Dr. Gates commented that she had received a request from a delegation from the 3 colleges that have an Associate Dean for graduate issues to be included in the meetings addressing graduate topics. Dr. Gates said that the council may want to consider starting meetings at 8:30 a.m. for agendas with graduate student issues and invite Associate Deans with graduate student responsibilities.

Adjourn: 10:30 a.m.